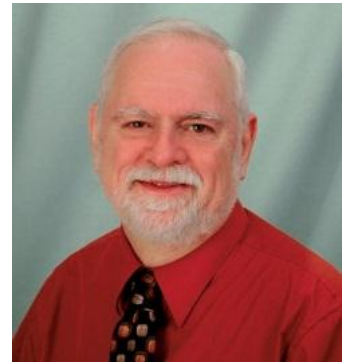




From State Veterinarian Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt: Thanks for the memories, Wisconsin!

The word “goodbye” has been around for quite a long time. It actually originated in the 14th century, the 1570s to be exact, as an abbreviated version of “God be with ye” and has evolved into hundreds of ways to say goodbye these days. But no matter how many ways you have to say goodbye, it never gets any easier. So, here goes my attempt.



This is my last update as State Veterinarian. It is a bit ironic that my first, last and many intervening updates contained information pertaining to improving livestock traceability. It’s nice to see the US almost catching up to Wisconsin!

Between the United States Animal Identification Plan and the traceability rule, Wisconsin has maintained a leadership role thanks to the efforts of our veterinarians and livestock producers. Wisconsin was the first state, and currently one of only three states, with mandatory premises registration. Without it we’d be like the other 47 states struggling to maintain minimal ID requirements that are essential to tracing exposed animals during disease outbreaks.

Veterinary medicine has been a hugely rewarding career for me, even though becoming state veterinarian was never on my bucket list. During my career I was presented with many career opportunities and choices, but where I was successful the credit should go to a lot of other people and to my family. While there have certainly been some highs and lows, through it all I have had the pleasure of working with an incredible group of talented, smart and dedicated people.

As I clean out dusty old files I am reminded of the efforts made over the years to protect Wisconsin’s \$35 billion dollar livestock industry. New and re-merging problems like Pseudorabies, TB, West Nile Virus, EEE, Piroplasmosis, CEM, CWD, BSE, Monkeypox, VHS, and most recently Seneca Valley Virus. And let’s not forget deer farm, fish farm and dog seller licensing, the transfer of the WVDL to the UW system, foot and mouth disease, 9-11, bio-terrorism, pandemic flu and a flurry of H’s and N’s.

All of these issues and problems have been dealt with, in Wisconsin, through cooperative efforts and wonderful working relationships between all of us.

So, as I say goodbye to you, I’ll just say it has been one heck of a ride. Thanks for all the memories.

Bringing Veterinary Services to Areas in Need

It's that time of year again. No, not the time of year when winter's worn out its welcome – although it has.

In fact, it's time to tell the USDA where we need food-animal veterinarians. Once again, the USDA is asking State Veterinarians to nominate areas of their states with shortages. Veterinarians who serve at least three years in those areas get up to \$25,000 a year toward paying their school loans under the [Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program](#).

There are three classifications of areas that the USDA considers:

- Type I areas -- Anywhere that a veterinarian could expect to spend at least 80 percent of his or her time working with food animals.
- Type II areas -- Rural parts of the state where a veterinarian could expect to spend at least 30 percent of his or her time working with food animals.
- Type III areas -- Where there is a shortage of veterinarians for public practice, working for government agencies as field veterinarians, epidemiologists, and slaughter inspection; in government laboratories; or at universities.

We have one approved area in far northwest Wisconsin.

Do you know of other places in the state with shortages? If you do, contact me. I need the names of the counties and other information to substantiate the need - failed recruitments, livestock numbers versus veterinarian numbers, unique needs, and potential consequences if we can't address the shortage.

Contact Dr. Paul McGraw at 608-224-4872 or [e-mail](#) him with your ideas.

New USDA rule changes official identification requirements for interstate livestock movement

A new USDA rule minimally changes official identification (ID) requirements for animals shipping interstate but still improves animal disease traceability, according to animal health officials at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

“The new rule generally requires livestock moving interstate to be officially identified and have a certification of veterinary inspection, which is consistent with the existing regulations in Wisconsin. These records give us the ability to trace an animal to a specific location in the event of a disease outbreak,” said Dr. Paul McGraw, DATCP’s Assistant State Veterinarian.

The primary change for Wisconsin livestock shippers is that some forms of ID that were previously considered acceptable for cattle are no longer valid after the rule takes effect on March 11. After that date, breed registration tattoos and registration numbers will no longer be considered official for cattle. American ID, 982 series tags, will also no longer be valid in two years.

“Breed registration tattoos and registration numbers will still be official ID for sheep, goats and other species, but not for cattle,” McGraw said.

When moving livestock interstate, the federal rule requires that:

- All sexually intact dairy cattle must be officially identified

- All rodeo, exhibition or event cattle (including steers) must be officially identified
- A backtag will still work as ID and a CVI is not required for animals going direct to slaughter

“Even though the federal rule sets an age limit of 18 months for sexually intact beef cattle, they will still need official ID to move into Wisconsin, in order to comply with existing state regulations,” McGraw said.

Acceptable ID forms, as defined in the rule, are:

- U.S. origin 15 digit eartags starting with 840
- National Uniform Eartag System (NUES) tags (Brite tags starting with state code, nine digit alphanumeric tag, an example of which is the orange brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags)
- Brands are acceptable ***only if the state of origin and the state of destination approve and have an agreement***, but Wisconsin has no agreements in place and no current plans to develop any brand or commuter herd agreements
- Other official ID approved by the USDA

For more information about animal movement, visit animalmovement.datcp.wi.gov. You can also connect with us on Twitter at twitter.com/widatcp or Facebook at facebook.com/widatcp.

New cervid TB tests not yet approved for use in Wisconsin

Though the USDA announced and approved two new cervid TB tests, specifically the Cervid TB Stat-Pak and Dual Path Platform (DPP), the tests have not been approved for use in Wisconsin until more guidance is provided by the USDA. Although data is limited on the new assays, the USDA took steps to approve the tests because the tests appear to perform at least as well as current (SCT/CCT) TB testing methods in detecting bovine tuberculosis in certain species of captive cervids. Another advantage is that both tests only require restraining deer one time instead of the 2-4 times required for skin testing.

This testing is not yet approved for use in Wisconsin because we are still waiting to review the final submission protocols from NVSL, but USDA has announced that veterinarians who wish to utilize the Stat-Pak and DPP tests must receive training on sample collection and test submission. In addition to Cervid TB training, veterinarians must attend an online training that USDA will offer to meet these requirements.

Webinar training provided by the USDA is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 2:00 pm CST. To participate, follow the link below or copy and paste into your browser for the PowerPoint presentation: <https://foodshield.connectsolutions.com/r19656980/> For the audio portion of the webinar, please dial: **888-858-2144** and use passcode: **6862206#**. Once the webinar is completed, veterinarians can self-report attendance to Margie Proost at 608-224-4877 or email Margie at margaret.proost@wisconsin.gov or mail to PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911. Include a statement and date that you attended the training. Veterinarians who are not able to attend the January 31 training will have the opportunity to access the presentation online at a later date.

USDA Accreditation and TB Certification seminars coming up

We'll be joining staff from USDA-Veterinary Services for the Wisconsin-specific accreditation seminar Tuesday evening, February 12 at the University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine, Room 2350. Registration begins at 5:00, with the seminar starting at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required.

You must complete this seminar in order to do regulatory veterinary work in Wisconsin, including signing certificates of veterinary inspection for in-state, interstate, or international movement. In addition to this seminar, you must also complete [online training](#).

TB certification training for veterinarians will be held the following evening on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine in room 2350 from 6:30-8:00 pm. The doors to the main entrance to the school will be locked, but SVM staff will be present prior to the start of the training to open the door for private practitioners attending the training. The next accreditation seminar will be later in the year.

Be aware of legally reportable diseases

Veterinarians are legally required to report suspected cases of certain diseases to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer. Some of these are foreign animal diseases that we have never had in the United States while others are diseases that we are attempting to eradicate, such as pseudorabies and bovine tuberculosis. [Appendix A](#) diseases must be reported to the department within one day of diagnosis and [Appendix B](#) disease must be reported within 10 days of diagnosis. Please familiarize yourself with the diseases listed on these links.

When reporting these diseases, a state veterinarian will investigate and, if necessary, submit samples to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) and possibly the U.S. Veterinary Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, or Plum Island Research Center in New York (for suspected foreign animal diseases). Until test results are available, the premises will likely be quarantined. If any lab other than the WVDL is used for testing, individual veterinarians are responsible for reporting test results to the department.

Johne's disease news

You can always find the most up-to-date information about Johne's Disease by reading our quarterly newsletters, which are located on DATCP's website. Here you will find the last three years of [Johne's News](#) for beef producers and dairy producers as well as newsletters from the [Wisconsin Johne's Disease Control Program](#).

Certified Pullorum Tester training seminar set for April

A pullorum tester training seminar will be held on Wednesday evening, **April 10, 2013** from **6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** at the main office of the **Hancock Agricultural Research Station, located at N3909 County Rd V, Hancock, Wis.** This seminar is for people who would like to become a certified pullorum tester for poultry in Wisconsin. There is no cost to attend the seminar.

Certified testers can test their own or others' poultry so that flocks can qualify for the National Poultry Improvement Program, Wisconsin Tested Flock Program, or individual testing requirements. These testing programs allow owners to move birds for fairs, exhibits, and sales. Certified testers must be at least 18 years old, and adhere to NPIP and Wisconsin Tested Flock program standards. They do not need to be veterinarians or veterinary technicians. The seminar will explain the requirements for the poultry testing programs, and demonstrate how to test for poultry diseases – pullorum and mycoplasma gallisepticum.

A \$25 fee to become certified must be mailed within two weeks after attending the seminar to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection along with a form that will be supplied at the seminar.

Pre-registration is required – please contact Margie Proost at 608-224-4877 by **April 1, 2013** to register or email Margie at margaret.proost@wisconsin.gov or mail to PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911.